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98 MAR 17 AM 11:53

To: City Clerk Margaret Drury

Thursday March 12, 1998

From: Susan Miller-Havens, City Manager's Truck Advisory Committee

Re: Councillor's packets for Monday's meeting

Margaret, Please include this communication and a copy for the Manager.

Thanks,

Susan Miller-Havens

Susan Miller-Havens

617-576-2502

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CAMBRIDGE MA

COMMUNICATION

To: Members of the City Council and The City Manager
From: Susan Miller-Havens an author of Truck Report "B"
Date: March 12, 1998

Commonality

We heard your concerns at the city council meeting several weeks ago about "commonality" between Report A and Report B. * Both reports acknowledge problems with trucking in Cambridge.

Enclosed are the first sentences from both sets of recommendations. We hope that you will have time to read the rationale behind these recommendations, representing two years of hard work.

Differences

Report B, the majority report, is proactive and calls for long overdue action and offers concrete suggestions. Banning through trucking at night on all streets and discouraging through trucks during the day are important first steps to protecting our city, a city that is increasingly besieged by both through trucks and huge local delivery trucks .

Report A, the minority report, while appearing to have some similar recommendations, calls for more study and no immediate action.

A City Wide Issue

Members of report B have sought to **unite** the neighborhoods throughout the city rather than divide them as have some members of report A. (see neighborhood group letters in appendix G)

The Transportation Committee

We are hereby requesting that Councillor Davis give the citizen authors of each report the opportunity to present their reports and that as many councillors as possible attend those presentations.

Televised Transportation Committee Meetings

We support Councillor Toomey's order to have these meetings televised on Cable. Neighborhood groups in the city have both reports. We know from them that there is tremendous interest in these meetings. Because our truck advisory committee meetings were scheduled at difficult times for the public to attend and rarely advertised, it is important that they now be given access to the discussions about this city-wide issue.

*After months of deliberations, at the suggestion of Susan Miller-Havens (Report B), she and Paul Meyers (Report A) met for two lengthy work sessions to try and find common ground to produce a single report that reflected "consensus view".

Recommendations Report B

Citizen Majority Report

Robert Travers ,Douglass Lee, Thomas Bracken, Vici Casana,
Robert Johnson and Susan Miller-Havens

Recommendation #1 Nighttime Truck Restrictions

We recommend that the city take immediate steps to adopt a city wide night time ban on through trucks from 10:00 P.M to 7:00 A.M. utilizing local zoning law.

Recommendation #2 Evaluation of a Daytime Through Truck Route

We recommend that analytic studies or trials be undertaken to evaluate the impacts of a designated daytime through truck route as designed by the authors of Report B with input from councillors and neighborhood groups.

Recommendation #3 Truck Traffic Data and Analysis

We recommend that the City engage an independent consultant to aid the Traffic Department in developing a database, to contain daily and peak hour volumes as well as truck configurations and identifying marks.

Recommendation #4 Diversion of Hazardous Materials from Boston

We recommend that the legal department respond to the 1996 council order challenging Boston's legal authority to direct through tankers carrying hazardous materials onto River Street. We further recommend that the outdated, unfunded and incomplete Arthur D. Little HAZMAT Study be examined for its current relevance and for its methodology.

Recommendation #5 Aggressive Enforcement of Existing Regulations

We recommend aggressive enforcement and an increase in the police force dedicated to such enforcement. We also recommend that the council deal with the obstacles currently hindering the police from performing effectively.

Recommendation #6 Traffic Calming

We recommend the use of traffic calming measures whenever appropriate, but we do not hold out much hope that such measures will be a major instrument for controlling truck traffic.

Recommendation #7 Regional Truck Study

We recommend that the City face the reality that the MAPC is floundering from lack of financial and community support, and that no action to mitigate the truck problem can be expected in the near future.

Recommendations Report A
Citizen Minority Report

Dan Kanstroom, Scott Lewis, Paul Myers, Geneva Malenfant, Yvonne Giddens,
City Staff members and Star Market Representative

"Recommendation #1- Enhanced Enforcement

The City should substantially increase police enforcement of existing and future truck violations through additional staffing of the police truck enforcement unit, increased enforcement activity by regular staff, and further staff training and acquisition of necessary enforcement equipment"

"Recommendation #2- Truck Restrictions

The City should be very aggressive in considering truck restrictions. The City should seek to establish partial or full truck restrictions on all Cambridge streets where they are warranted based on truck volumes, travel patterns, and adjacent residential uses.

Nighttime Truck Restrictions

The City should increase its efforts to implement nighttime truck restrictions to prevent through trucks from short cutting through residential areas. In addition, the City should explore the feasibility of implementing a Citywide nighttime restriction on through trucks. Cambridge should fully examine its authority to impose such a restriction and determine its likely enforceability.

Daytime Restrictions

The City should similarly identify problem streets where daytime truck traffic especially through trucks, is most onerous and seek to implement appropriate restrictions.

"Recommendation #3- Regional Truck Study and Routing

Cambridge must mount a steadfast, multi-community campaign to ensure timely completion of the Boston Metropolitan Region Truck Study.

"Recommendation #4 -Local Truck Studies

The City should fund the development of a comprehensive data base of truck traffic information for Cambridge.

"Recommendation #5- Hazardous Cargo Study

The City should take further its efforts to evaluate and reduce the potential public safety impacts of the movement of hazardous cargo through Cambridge.

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Consent Communication #22 S-165

Communication was received from Susan Miller-Havens, Truck Advisory Committee, transmitting a memorandum regarding the commonality, differences and recommendations on the Truck A and Truck B reports.

In City Council March 16, 1998

Referred to
Truck Reports